

*For your Frank
Spanier*

DOB 1-995

June 16, 1954

Dear Frank!

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Manabu Enseki, formerly with the Japanese Foreign Office and assistant to Admiral Nomura when he was Japanese Ambassador to the United States in 1941 contacted me yesterday. During our conversation he advised that Admiral Kisekaburo Nomura is being talked about in close political circles as a real darkhorse to succeed Yoshida as Premier of Japan.

He related that Admiral Nomura was recently elected to the House of Councillors in the Diet of Japan, as an independent belonging to no political party. It was understood that he was supported by both the Liberal and Progressive Parties despite the fact that he is an independent.

According to Enseki, Nomura is very popular with all elements, except the left-wingers, in the several political parties of Japan.

In view of Hatoyama's health and Shigenobu's lack of support in

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The Liberal Party, which is the dominant party, there is no strong candidate other than Nomura for a coalition supported by the Liberal and Progressive parties.

From my own knowledge Nomura is quite popular with Japanese, one of the leaders of the liberal party and with independent, the President of the Progressive Party, and it is very conceivable to think that Nomura is a strong potential candidate in view of his status as an independent. You are probably aware that Admiral Nomura is very strong pro-American and acted as an informant in political matters for the organization from 1950 to 1953. Reviewing the Tokyo files will indicate his stand on certain issues in which we were interested, such as "Re-armament," etc. He is very strong for re-armament, and in my opinion gathered good information concerning the political situation in Japan.

P. S. If there is anything further regarding information on Admiral Nomura whom I have reported above please advise me.

Yasuke is a well known store in the Hashi-dow Chemical Co., of which he is a director - his offices are on the 6th floor of the San Shin Bldg. Tokyo, Japan.

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